Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Patrica A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pplunker@usgs.gov

Jamal Dimashk (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7962
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: jdimashk@usgs.gov

Internet: http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals

ALUMINUM IN MAY 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in May was 216,859 metric tons (t), according to data reported to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,995 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month but 5% below the rate for May 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 84.60 cents per pound in April to 80.38 cents per pound in May, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during May. The buying price range began the month at 62–64 cents per pound. On May 3, the price range decreased sharply to 58–60 cents per pound. On May 6, the price range recovered slightly to 59–61 cents per pound before decreasing to 56–58 cents per pound on May 11. The price range slipped again on May 18 to 55.5–57.0 cents per pound before beginning an upward climb on May 21 to 56–58 cents per pound and on May 25, to 57–59 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in June to 82.56 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs trended upward during the month of June. On June 2, the buying price range increased to 59–61 cents per pound. On June 15, the price range decreased slightly to 58–60 cents per pound before rebounding to 60–62 cents per pound on June 22. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[2]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[3]	Total stocks, end of period[4]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003[p]	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,530
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,480
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,480
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,470
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	753	1,400
January-May	1,153	741	478	1,220	1,280	342	1,620	3,990	1,530
2004:									
January	216	151	91	242	211	64	274	733	1,430
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	796	1,470 [r]
March	217	159	97	256	248	76	324	797	1,460 [r]
April	209	150	99	249	254	72	326	783	1,510
May	217	157	100	256	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	1,061	772	470	1,240	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2003[p]	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550	2,930
2003:												
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-May	714	530	352	304	358	334	54	48	2	2	1,480	1,220
2004:												
January	131	97	57	51	90	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	290	242
February	132	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	284	238
March	141	103	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	308	256
April	135 [r]	99 [r]	65	57	90	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	298 [r]	249
May	137	101	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	307	256
January-May	676	498	304	270	455	426	50	45	2	2	1,490	1,240

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MAY 2004[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	114,000	137,000	83,900	101,000
Integrated aluminum companies	68,000	68,000	60,400	60,400
Independent mill fabricators	77,600	93,200	72,600	87,100
Foundries	7,060	8,470	6,240	7,490
Other consumers	505	606	505	606
Total	267,000	307,000	224,000	256,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4

PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MAY 2004[1]

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May[2]	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	23,600 r	76,800	80,600	19,800	394,000	393,000
Can stock clippings	3,130	24,500	25,200	2,440	126,000	127,000
Other clippings	3,540 r	7,870	8,180	3,230	38,300	39,100
Borings and turnings	4,650 r	17,400	17,600	4,470	88,900	89,200
Dross and skimmings	4,800	32,700	32,700	4,800	159,000	159,000
Total new scrap	39,700 r	159,000	164,000	34,700	806,000	806,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	10,800 r	30,000	29,600	11,300	146,000	146,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,760 r	1,580	1,640	1,710	8,480	8,320
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	13,800	56,400	63,800	6,340	283,000	289,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,070 r	7,320	7,340	3,050	36,500	36,700
Total old scrap	29,400 r	95,400	102,000	22,400	474,000	480,000
Sweated pig	64	833	823	74	3,680	3,670
Total all classes	69,200 r	255,000	267,000	57,100	1,280,000	1,290,000

rRevised.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Includes revised data from previous month(s).

[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5

ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May[3]	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,870 r	2,570	1,620	3,820	8,560	8,370
380 and variations	6,830 r	15,300	15,600	6,600	81,200	81,600
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,660	4,030	4,030	2,660	20,200	20,200
No. 319 and variations	5,550 r	9,350	9,420	5,480	46,800	46,900
F-132 alloy and variations	1,400	2,420	2,340	1,470	13,000	13,000
Al-Zn alloys	224	140	140	224	698	698
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	16	16
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	1,900	1,900
Other[4]	4,390	4,810	5,250	3,950	30,400	31,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	20,300	20,700	9,760	101,000	101,000
Total all alloys	34,200 r	59,400	59,500	34,000	304,000	305,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,480	XX	XX	48,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,210	XX	XX	15,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	685	XX	XX	4,780	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	46,000	XX	XX	235,000	XX

rRevised. XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[3]Includes revised data from previous months.

[4]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

[5]No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2004[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April
Argentina	502	14,800	52	181	101	204	655	15,200
Australia	6,020	17,100	6	32	17	17	6,040	17,100
Bahrain	199	400	783	3,960	--	--	982	4,360
Belgium	668	688	1,380	4,500	--	--	2,040	5,190
Brazil	28,500	55,100	2,030	6,990	--	--	30,500	62,000
Canada	148,000	596,000	39,800	154,000	31,000	111,000	219,000	861,000
China	52	2,370	4,250	14,000	--	77	4,300	16,500
France	25	188	607	2,100	45	78	677	2,360
Germany	21	3,460	7,070	24,500	6	52	7,090	28,000
Hungary	--	--	113	616	--	--	113	616
Italy	--	--	130	703	--	--	130	703
Japan	67	144	681	2,940	16	79	764	3,160
Korea, Republic of	--	7	218	964	--	29	218	1,000
Mexico	--	1,240	1,750	6,740	7,240	31,800	8,980	39,800
Netherlands	90	204	186	665	--	132	277	1,000
Norway	76	489	(2)	34	--	--	76	523
Russia	51,600	227,000	2,320	11,100	562	3,920	54,500	242,000
South Africa	5,030	12,000	1,970	11,600	--	--	7,000	23,600
Spain	12	45	51	301	--	--	63	347
Sweden	3	3	172	855	36	79	211	937
Switzerland	--	--	342	1,340	--	--	342	1,340
United Arab Emirates	1,560	16,800	--	--	--	49	1,560	16,800
United Kingdom	38	235	297	1,080	750	2,180	1,090	3,490
Venezuela	10,000	39,300	1,830	6,580	1,540	7,300	13,400	53,200
Other	1,780	12,600	5,880	24,900	4,940	17,700	12,600	55,100
Total	254,000	1,000,000	71,900	281,000	46,300	175,000	372,000	1,460,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7

U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2004[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April
Australia	14	30	127	602	--	4	140	636
Belgium	57	270	304	1,910	20	40	381	2,220
Brazil	38	39	1,070	5,320	--	(2)	1,110	5,360
Canada	10,800	42,800	49,300	180,000	12,800	47,900	72,900	270,000
China	136	163	2,780	10,600	26,500	93,800	29,400	105,000
Czech Republic	--	--	16	75	--	--	16	75
Dominican Republic	--	4	73	186	--	--	73	190
France	(2)	20	591	2,350	--	20	592	2,390
Germany	4	119	374	1,460	79	225	457	1,800
Hong Kong	8	42	269	879	815	6,490	1,090	7,410
India	3	95	18	88	419	1,070	440	1,260
Israel	201	403	301	884	17	19	519	1,310
Italy	5	19	180	657	--	--	185	677
Japan	648	2,060	618	2,220	1,870	6,450	3,140	10,700
Korea, Republic of	91	171	1,560	7,020	2,930	14,900	4,580	22,100
Malaysia	--	7	131	488	--	--	131	495
Mexico	12,800	40,700	12,500	45,300	3,040	12,200	28,400	98,200
Netherlands	30	79	29	206	15	45	75	330
Russia	--	(2)	5	20	--	--	5	20
Saudi Arabia	--	16	1,310	5,170	--	--	1,310	5,180
Singapore	25	86	96	473	64	111	185	670
Spain	23	69	104	271	--	54	127	394
Sweden	--	--	25	74	--	--	25	74
Taiwan	31	208	459	2,020	3,620	11,400	4,110	13,600
Thailand	--	34	126	949	182	407	308	1,390
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	57	392	1,220	3,570	33	95	1,310	4,060
Venezuela	--	14	325	956	--	--	325	970
Other	115	610	1,780	6,740	820	4,270	2,710	11,600
Total	25,200	88,400	75,700	280,000	53,200	200,000	154,000	568,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.